

undefined voltages because they are not connected.

*to omit*

In other embodiments of the invention, six contact areas only of the card are used, for example contact areas C1, C1, C3, C5, C6 and C7 only. In such embodiments, the contact areas C1 and C5 are preferably connected to the pads VCC and GND of the chip. Any of the remaining contact areas may be connected to the pad D+ of the chip and any of the further remaining contact areas may be connected to the pad D-. It should be observed that, in all embodiments, making a connection between the pad VPP and the area C7 remains optional.--

*to omit*

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3, 4 and 7-13 as follows:

*to omit*

3. (Amended) A portable article according to claim 1, characterized in that the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) constitute a differential pair, the potentials present on said pads being opposite to each other.

4. (Amended) A portable article according to claim 1, characterized in that the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) are suitable for transmitting data using protocols defined in the universal serial bus (USB) standard.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) constitute a differential pair.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that data transmission via the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) takes place in both directions in alternation.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that to process data transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-), a clock is generated internally in the chip.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that data is transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) using a synchronous communications protocol.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that data transmission is provided at rates going up to a value of about 12 megabits per second.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that data transmission is provided using protocols in compliance with the universal serial bus (USB) standard.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, characterized in that in order to transmit data via the third and fourth pads (D+, D-), the portable article is connected to a connector of a reader (2) in such a manner that initially connection is made to the second contact area (C5), then connection to the third and fourth contact areas (C4, C8), and finally connection to the first contact area (C1).

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100